

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 12506 231532Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2106

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12506

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, ET, US
SUBJ: WITHDRAWAL OF PEACE CORPS; AMBASSADOR GODLEY

REF: STATE 309213

1. I AM DISTURBED WITH PORTION OF INSTRUCTION CONTAINED
LAST SENTENCE PARA 2 REFTEL RE GODLEY MATTER, SPECIFICALLY
THE PHRASE "TURN AROUND THE PRESENT DECLINE IN THE US-
ETHIOPIAN RELATIONSHIP." GIVEN THAT GODLEY ISSUE IS
COMPLETELY UNKNOWN HERE, EXCEPT TO HANDFUL OF EMBOFFS WHOM
I HAVE INFORMED ON NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS, AND TO ETHIOPIANS
(AND I SUSPECT THEIR NUMBER IS VERY LIMITED AS WELL, E.G.,
I'M NOT SURE EVEN AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF OF MOFA, OUR
NORMAL CONTACT, KNOWS IT), THE ONLY PERSONS LIKELY TO RAISE
THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION AT ALL, ARE FONMIN HIMSELF,
PERHAPS HIS DEPUTY, OR POSSIBLY MINDEF. PROBLEM FROM
MY POINT OF VIEW IS THAT I DOUBT ANY OF THEM WOULD
ACCEPT A REPLY REFERRING TO A "PRESENT DECLINE" IN
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT RAISING AN EYEBROW AND
INQUIRING WHAT WE HAD IN MIND. AS I READ MEMCONS AND
TELEGRAMS, WE HAVE USED PHRASEOLOGY SUCH AS "OUR
DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS" IN CONNECTION WITH GODLEY
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ISSUE, AND FONMIN KIFLE HAS SPOKEN OF THE BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP GOING THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES, BUT I DO
NOT FIND WHERE DEPT HAS PREVIOUSLY TALKED OF A
"PRESENT DECLINE" TO ETHIOPIANS.

2. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, BEFORE USING TERM, I WOULD LIKE

TO BE SURE MYSELF OF DEPT'S FRAME OF REFERENCE.
ASSUREDLY RELATIONS ARE NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE (KIFLE
IS NOT FAR WRONG) AND EPMG ACTION RE GODLEY IS HARDLY
HELPFUL, BUT "PRESENT DECLINE" CLEARLY SUGGESTS A
CURRENT AND DEVELOPING SITUATION APART FROM GODLEY
ISSUE WHICH IS NOT READILY APPARENT TO ME EXCEPT AS
IT APPLIES TO ACTION RE PEACE CORPS WHICH IS OF OUR
OWN MAKING, AND PERHAPS ANTI-CIA BUSINESS WHICH AFTER
BRIEF RESURGENCE IN EARLY NOVEMBER, HAS AGAIN DIED
DOWN. IF DEPT HAS ADDITIONAL PERCEPTIONS, I WOULD
APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT THEY MAY BE.
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Message Attributes

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